

# **Congressional Youth Cabinet, Meeting Minutes**

*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 10:00AM*

*221 Main Street, Hartford CT*



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## **10:00AM –**

Introductions and opening by John Rossi, Chief of Staff and Edmund Skowronek, Press Secretary. Both staff members reiterate the efforts of Eva Bunnell, former director and founder of the CYC, and discuss transition for CYC into 2014. John speaks to the Congressional Briefing on Upstream Violence Prevention; Edmund speaks to potentially starting a CYC Twitter account.

CYC Members take turns talking about what the Youth Cabinet means to them and what they hope to get out of it in 2014. Responses include the significance of access for members, the way the CYC allows members to share ideas and the importance of continuing efforts to influence policies that impact youth.

## **10:15AM –**

Congressman John B. Larson introduces himself to new members and speaks to the Congressional Briefing on Upstream Violence Prevention and the role nutrition could play. After discussing the potential for legislative efforts in 2014, Congressman Larson asks CYC members for their thoughts on the briefing and violence reduction in general.

Member responses vary from understanding the need for additional action to prevent violence and questions as to how nutrition would play a role in the reduction of violent behaviors. Congressman Larson speaks on the science behind CAPT Joseph Hibbeln's presentation at the Congressional Briefing (see 'CAPT Hibbeln Presentation Summary').

Congressman Larson asks members to discuss current events and youth initiatives in their towns. Members speak on a variety of their own and others efforts including college career centers in local high schools and an initiative to help youth strengthen their self-esteem. Another Member also spoke to their experience at a recent University of Hartford Forum with Senator Chris Murphy on upcoming proposals in the Senate.

## **11:00AM –**

Edmund asked if any other members were interested in participating in an upcoming CT Humanities Conference on the future of work. The meeting closed with senior Member Kiernan Majerus-Collins speaking on his efforts with other senior members to create a more concrete structure for the CYC in terms of leadership, new member recruitment and member eligibility.